

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
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1. In local government the Komitetti Prethit replaces the former prefecture organization and is always headed by an influential Communist, who is often a candidate for the Communist Party Central Committee (Komitet Qendruer). All public offices, including the police and the Sigurimi section, are under the control of this officer since he is usually the most important member of the Communist Party in his locality.<sup>1</sup>
2. The village commune organization has been replaced by the Keshilli-Localitet. This office is an evidence of the decline of civil liberty in Albania in that the mayor is named by the Politburo and not elected by the inhabitants of the commune. The mayor's functions are similar to those he fulfilled under the old regime with the additional responsibility for security measures. The mayor is required to be an informer and has the power to arrest citizens who show opposition to the regime. The mayor must also disseminate Communist propaganda and recruit new Party members, particularly for the Communist Youth Movement. The Keshilli-Localitet has its own police and Sigurimi section, and is thus the supreme village authority.
3. The Komitet-Qendruer (Central Committee of the Albanian Communist Party) is the highest Party and government organ and controls the entire apparatus of the State. The Komitet-Qendruer is informed of all events in the nation in a daily report.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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All political, economic, and cultural ministries receive ciphered cables from the provincial organizations under their control. The cables are consolidated and submitted to the Central Committee in a long report.

4. The Fronti Democratic is an auxiliary organization of the Communist Party which serves to control the private lives of the citizens. The heads of this organization are all influential Communists. The rank and file is made up of all Albanians, male and female, who are not suspected of anti-Communist activity. It is a great offense for a citizen to refuse membership in this organization; a person who refuses to join is treated as an avowed enemy of the regime. The formalities for joining the Fronti Democratic are very simple and are based on the control provided by a register of the inhabitants of a given region. The register is kept by the regional Fronti Democratic leaders and shows whether or not a given individual is an enemy of the regime. Certain individuals are sometimes marked on the register as enemies of the regime, even though they are devoid of political ideas, because they have been denounced by Communists who are their personal enemies. However, the Fronti Democratic membership card is issued to all those who are not marked as enemies of the regime, upon their request and the payment of 20 leks. Although the Fronti Democratic card is not difficult to obtain, it is important to the ordinary citizen because, without it, the individual is often refused an identity card.
5. The Albanian Labor Union (Sindikata) has its headquarters in Tirana and its leaders are chosen by the Politburo from among the most ardent Party activists. Far from being an organization to defend the rights of its members, the union is actually an adjunct of the State Police. All the sectional leaders of the union are active Communists. Up to 1950, the Secretary-General of the union was Gogo Nushi. The union section leaders, whether in offices or factories, are vice directors. Union branches exist in every place where there are workers, including the ministries. The Union member pays 20 leks for his card and 4 leks monthly dues. Every worker or employee is obliged to be a member of the Union because failure to pay dues for three or four months is punished with the loss of one's position. The weekly Union meetings serve as disciplinary forum in which individual members' failures are denounced, the members menaced, punitive measures are taken and the members are induced to work more than eight hours a day, often up to twelve hours a day. The meetings take place after the regular working hours without giving the members time to go home and eat; the meetings usually last six hours. Any person who is employed automatically becomes a member of the Union. Every Union section has its so-called "agitators" who are active Party members; these are individuals who, on instructions from the Party, propose "voluntary" extra hours of work at the Union meetings. In spite of exhaustion from poor food and long hours, the other workers are obliged to accept the agitators proposal. The Union sections are nothing more than police offices designed to control and oppress the workers and not to protect their rights. Union membership is extended to the Peasants' Cooperatives but private individuals may not join. Total Union membership is approximately 300,000.
6. The Partija Kommuniste (The Albanian Workers' Party) like the Union, has its sections in every city and its cell in every place of employment. Like Union sections, Party sections organize their members according to the wishes of the regime and recruit new members, particularly among the youth. The Party sections also engage in propaganda, agitation and the organization of holidays and excursions. One of the principal tasks of the Party sections is the surveillance of its district to prevent any opposition activity. In brief, the Party serves as another police agency in places of employment and all members of the Party are also members of the Union. The cell is the Party organ which terrorizes the workers and employees who all know that, in order to be a Communist, one must be an informer, even against one's own family if it should be necessary. Party cards are very closely controlled documents and, even among Communists themselves, the card is not shown without good reason. Party members probably number approximately 20,000. However, the Party does not feel itself to be strong since members have suffered from too much activity without any positive results and the Russian manner of doing things has aroused much opposition among Albanian Communists. For this reason, the number of Party members who would defend communism to the last is not believed to be more than 1,000. However [redacted] the

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overthrow of the Party would require armed intervention and the defeat of the Party in initial engagements. In general, the population is afraid that a change would bring not the conquest of liberty, but only a change of masters. The most feared Communists are those described above as being members of the Central Committee. The "inviolable" chief of Albanian Communism is Enver Hoxha; Mehmet Shehu is the executor of decisions made by Hoxha.

1.  Comment: There are believed to be eight, or possibly fewer, prefectures in Albania.

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